

RESOLUTION NO. 20211021-028

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has officially recognized Intersex Awareness Day since 2019 to raise visibility for a marginalized and often forgotten group that is estimated to comprise nearly 2% of the population; and

WHEREAS, Council Member Casar on behalf of Mayor Adler made a proclamation on October 17, 2019 to do better by intersex Austinites alongside Mayor Adler, Council Members Ellis, Renteria, Harper-Madison and then-Council Member Flannigan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin recognizes that intersex persons face violence, discrimination, stigma, harassment, and persecution on account of their sex characteristics, which do not fit binary notions of typical male or female bodies; and,

WHEREAS, we bear witness to this violation of basic human rights, and will strive to do better as a city—celebrating the diversity of all Austin residents, including intersex individuals, moving forward; and,

WHEREAS, the New York State legislature passed a resolution in 2021 (Assembly Resolution No. 432) formally condemning non-consensual and medically unnecessary surgeries performed on intersex children as violate their reproductive rights, gender identity and expression and body autonomy; and

WHEREAS, this resolution abides by the recommendations of the World Health Organization, the United Nations, the American Medical Association Board of Trustees' 2016 report, three former US Surgeons General and manifold additional medical and human rights experts and multinational organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has introduced and passed bills in recent sessions that infringe on reproductive rights and body autonomy and that would allow for discrimination based on gender identity and expression; and

WHEREAS, parents across the city and state should have access to current and accurate information concerning healthcare for their intersex children; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to providing the most current, accurate, factual and rigorously tested information to its residents pertaining to their public health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the New York City Council resoundingly passed a bill mandating the city’s health department to develop educational materials about how “gender normalizing” surgeries on children born with variations in their sex characteristics are medically unnecessary and can inflict irreversible physical and psychological harm; and

WHEREAS, there are accredited and qualified organizations, doctors and advocates that could assist Austin Public Health in the creation of a similar campaign to the one mandated in New York City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has enacted policy to support reproductive rights and body autonomy, such as the provision of comprehensive abortion funding and addressing a backlog of rape-kits; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission passed Recommendation No. 20210927-003a concerning intersex rights and healthcare on September 27, 2021;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

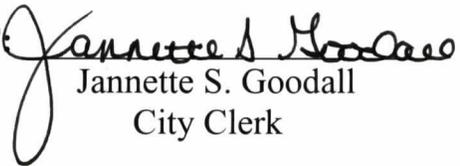
The Austin City Council formally condemns non-consensual and medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs to City Manager to explore methods to implement a public education campaign to provide accurate, affirming information to the doctors and parents of intersex children about these children's health, to counter misinformation that can be presented as medical advice.

ADOPTED: October 21, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk